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Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages.

In the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 8 has been objected to as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that independent claim 2 is directed to a rubber blanket *per se* while dependent claim 8 requires a clamping device which does not form any part of the rubber blanket structure. Claim 8 has been amended to be independent so as to facilitate prosecution of the application, therefore the rejection is moot.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for

overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-11 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Berg (U.S. Patent No. 3,384,014) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In the first paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious over Berg (U.S. Patent No. 3,384,014) in view of Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,562,039) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claim 7 has been rejected as being obvious over Berg (U.S. Patent No. 3,384,014) in view of German Utility Model DE 94 16 007 U1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 2 (reference symbols 23 and 24) and on page 15, lines 5-7 of the specification of the instant application.

In the invention of the instant application, typical register cut-outs are used. It is common knowledge that typical

register cut-outs lead into a leading edge, i.e. in the state of the art in the leading edge of the blanket material (prior art reference Kunkel et al. U.S Patent No. 4,707,902; Fig. 6 positions 14 and 15) and in the invention of the instant application in the leading edge of the clamping bar 11 (Fig 2, positions 23 and 24). In other words, the shape of a typical register is not closed, it is substantially u-shaped.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, and 11 call for, inter alia:

"substantially u-shaped register cut-outs".

None of the references cited by the Examiner in the Office action (Berg, Fox et al. and DE 94 16 007) disclose typical register cut-outs as understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art. All of the cut-outs shown in the above-noted references have a closed profile, i.e. the cut-out (30) mentioned in the Office action, which is shown in Fig. 3 of the Berg reference.

The references do not show or suggest substantially u-shaped register cut-outs, as recited in claims 1, 2, 8-11 of the instant application. All of the references disclose register

cut-outs which are closed. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which the register cut-outs are substantially u-shaped.

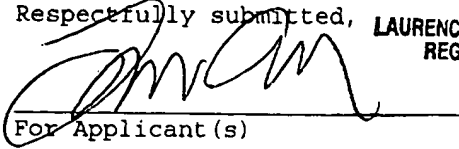
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 2, and 8-11. Claims 1, 2, and 8-11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 2, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Enclosed herewith is the fee for an additional dependent claim in the amount of \$84.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,  **LAURENCE A. GREENBERG**
REG. NO. 29,308

For Applicant(s)

AKD:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). A method of aligning a rubber blanket configuration formed with substantially u-shaped register cut-outs, relative to a clamping device having register pins, for clamping the rubber blanket configuration onto a cylinder, which comprises bringing the substantially u-shaped register cut-outs formed in the rubber [cylinder] blanket configuration into contact with the register pins of the clamping device when the clamping device has been applied to the cylinder.

Claim 2 (twice-amended). A rubber blanket configuration, comprising:

a rubber blanket formed of a blanket material; and

said rubber blanket having a clamping bar with substantially u-shaped register cut-outs formed therein.

Claim 8 (twice-amended). [The rubber blanket configuration according to claim 2, including a clamping device, only said clamping bar being grippable by said clamping device for fastening the rubber blanket to a cylinder.]

An assembly, comprising:

a rubber blanket configuration formed of a blanket material;

said rubber blanket configuration having a clamping bar with substantially u-shaped register cut-outs formed therein; and

a clamping device fastening said rubber blanket configuration to a cylinder, said clamping device only gripping said clamping bar.

Claim 9 (amended). [A rubber blanket comprising structures defining register cut-outs, said register cut-outs being arranged in the rubber blanket so as to correspond to register cut-outs formed in a printing plate.]

A register system, comprising:

a printing plate with substantially u-shaped register cutouts formed therein; and

a rubber blanket configuration having structures defining further substantially u-shaped register cutouts, disposed in the rubber blanket configuration and corresponding to said substantially u-shaped register cutouts of said printing plate.

Claim 10 (twice-amended). A printing machine, comprising:

a rubber blanket configuration [having a rubber blanket] being
formed of a blanket material;

said rubber blanket configuration including a clamping bar
having substantially u-shaped register cut-outs formed
therein.

Claim 11 (twice-amended). A varnishing machine, comprising:

a rubber blanket configuration [having a rubber blanket] being
formed of a blanket material;

said rubber blanket configuration including a clamping bar
having substantially u-shaped register cut-outs formed
therein.